



### ***The Washington State Pacific Rim Summit on Methamphetamine***

When the Washington State Meth Initiative and local, state and federal law enforcement convened at the campus of Microsoft in Bellevue, Washington it was for the purpose of celebrating some major accomplishment but also to prepare for the next wave or threat posed by this insidious drug. Participants laid out a plan of action that would take them into the next five years of work expanding their efforts to provide services in prevention, treatment, and enforcement. Without this plan, participants feared that the State would lose ground. This plan will serve as blueprint for continued support by local, state and federal funders. Congressional support has been critical to the success of WSMI and it must remain the cornerstone of its future work.

Also, Attorney General Rob McKenna and Governor Christine Gregoire have provided new and fresh leadership for the state in this critical time. Enhancing enforcement, promoting WSMI and the MAT team model and advocating for additional resources to strengthen prevention, treatment and enforcement have given the citizens of Washington State hope in their effort to combat this new global threat of meth production and use.

## **Recommendations from the Pacific Rim Summit included:**

### ***Mobilizing for a New Level of Engagement***

1. Develop strategies to better inform and prepare communities to understand the relationship between identity theft and methamphetamine production and use.
2. Identifying the next strategies to enhance the state's approach to drug endangered children that includes policies and strategies for helping the child in the meth family as well as the child in the meth lab.
3. Involve policy makers in discussions about the need to keep funding flexible as the State adapts to the changing and evolving nature of the meth problem.
4. Establish regular briefings with policy makers to identify new and significant funding streams to enhance prevention and treatment.
5. Law Enforcement and community activists must communicate and address the issues of an endless supply of methamphetamine and the relationship of supply to demand.
6. The Washington State Meth Initiative will renew its efforts to involve schools and education in demand reduction activities in their communities.
7. Provide research and communication strategies that demonstrate the science behind brain chemistry/formation processes associated with drug abuse, violence and neglect.
8. Intensify efforts to reach out to Latino and Asian partners in promoting activities in enforcement, prevention and treatment.
9. Be intentional in strategies to involve the medical community in understanding meth addiction, drug exposed children and treatment alternatives
10. Enhance and reform the foster care system to include and validate the role of grandparents and others providing primary care to children involved in meth families. By all means increase the number of families providing foster care assistance.
11. Develop consistent and comprehensive statewide law enforcement coordination and strategies to combat methamphetamine.
12. The Governor's Council on Substance Abuse should explore a funding strategy that includes enhanced taxes on other substances such as beer and spirits to help fund comprehensive prevention and treatment.
13. Working with local, state and national media partners, to develop a media campaign that keeps the issue of methamphetamine use and its effect on children in front of the Citizens of Washington.

14. Developing working partnership with the Washington State Clerk's Association to better access and analyze data to track drug dependency among juveniles.
15. Support and expand the statewide youth summit with an emphasis to include and involve schools in the development of statewide youth strategy.
16. Enhance and cultivate Law Enforcement's support of treatment and expansion of mental health services as part of the State's comprehensive approach to methamphetamine.
17. Provide the Governor with quarterly briefings on the progress of WSMI and enforcement efforts to eradicate methamphetamine from the State.
18. Provide an annual report card to the public and to policy makers about the status of methamphetamine use in the state and to assess how resources are being allocated and should be allocated. The report card would be sent to local, state and federal policy makers.
19. Identify and examine promising practices in intervention with pregnant women who are at risk of being drug affected or exposed.
20. Provide assessment of treatment capacity within the state and identify appropriate interventions to strengthen the education and training of providers, report on and if appropriate enhance salary of providers and clarify and provide uniform certification requirements.
21. Expand wrap-around treatment services that include children.
22. Invite and encourage the active participation of the Pharmacy Board in all issues related to methamphetamine.
23. Explore the viability of Citizen Observer as a tool of the Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and implement when and where appropriate.
24. Expand and enhance the role of methpedia.org as a vehicle for dissemination information and providing web-based training for the Meth Action Teams.
25. Enhance state efforts to collaborate with tribal organizations to confront the spread and use of methamphetamine in Indian Country.

### ***Congressional Support***

The Washington State Meth Initiative and other organizations throughout the state have made significant progress in combating methamphetamine because of the tremendous and encouraging support of the Washington State Congressional Delegation. The delegation have been tireless

and consistent advocates for our efforts to save lives and to put into place the infrastructure that will allow us to continue this important work. Continue to reach out to the delegation and thank them for their support and continue to inform them of the threat of methamphetamine and how together we can address this problem nationally and internationally.

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